

The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for producing a gearwheel from a powder-metal blank which is pressed and sintered with an allowance in the toothing region, with the powder metal blank supported on a mandrel being densified in the region of the allowance by pressing on the counter-toothing of a circular pusher tool engaging in the toothing of the powder metal blank under plastic deformation by the allowance, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein during its densification the powder metal blank is radially clamped on both face sides over the circumference.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the powder metal blank is axially clamped for radial clamping between two pressure rings.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): An apparatus for performing the method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, comprising a mandrel for supporting a powder metal blank for a gearwheel to be produced which is sintered and pressed with allowance and at least one

pushing tool which engages with a counter-tooth in the tooth of the powder metal blank, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein two pressure rings (8,9) are provided which are coaxial to the mandrel (1) and axially clamp the powder metal blank (2) between themselves.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): An apparatus according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein one of the two pressure rings (8,9) is axially supported relative to the mandrel (1) and the other pressure ring (9) is connected with a axial actuator (10).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): An apparatus according to claim 3 ~~or 4~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pressure rings (8,9) and/or the powder metal blank (2) comprise axially projecting, circumferential noses (13) for positive-locking connection between the powder metal blank (2) and the pressure rings (8,9).